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# DA, Publishers Sued by Novel

## $10 Million in Libel Damages Asked

Former New Orleans bar operator Gordon Novel filed a $10 million libel suit in federal court in Chicago Wednesday against District Attorney Jim Garrison and publishers of Playboy magazine.

The 29-year-old Novel, who now lives in Columbus, Ohio, was labeled a "most important" witness by Garrison in his probe of the John F. Kennedy assassination.

In May Novel filed a $50 million suit in federal court here against Garrison and members of Truth or Consequences Inc., a group helping to finance the DA's probe, but two weeks later he withdrew the suit rather than return to New Orleans to make a deposition in the case.

Novel charged Wednesday that Playboy printed comments in an interview with Garrison which were "false and defamatory." He said the interview caused him irreparable character damage.

In the former suit, $10 million also was sought from Garrison and various amounts from members of the supporting organization. Then he charged that the named defendants ruined his reputation and had "malicious and scandalous words" published about him.

Former operator of the Jamaican Village, Novel was represented in Chicago by Elmer Gertz, who also served as attorney for the late Jack Ruby, who shot Lee Harvey Oswald, accused Kennedy assassin.

Novel recently testified before the Baton Rouge Grand Jury investigating allegations of organized crime in Louisiana, after being granted immunity from arrest. Garrison had sought to extradite him in connection with an alleged conspiracy to burglarize a Houma munitions building.